



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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January 21, 2000

TO: Internal File

THRU: Sharon Falvey, Project Team Lead *SKF*

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist *PB*

RE: Willow Creek Channel Reconstruction, Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, ACT/007/038-AM99H

## SUMMARY:

On November 18, 1999, the Division received information concerning the as-built configuration for the Willow Creek channel. The proposal includes a few changes relating to macroinvertebrate studies and mitigation for the loss of big game habitat.

## TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

### FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-333

#### Analysis:

The applicant monitored fish and macroinvertebrate populations in Willow Creek from 1995 through 1998. The monitoring in 1998 showed populations had returned to nearly the levels that existed prior to the stream being relocated, and the application contains a letter from the Division of Wildlife Resources indicating it is no longer necessary to monitor these populations. The Division has reviewed the information and also believes further monitoring is not necessary unless there are additional disturbances to the stream.

The application also contains information about a project done to mitigate for the loss of

big game habitat at the mine site. The permittee purchased 40 acres of land in the Gordon Creek Wildlife Management Area and donated it to Wildlife Resources. This will allow Wildlife Resources to manage the land as big game winter range.

**Findings:**

Information provided in the proposal is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The portions of the proposal relating to wildlife can be approved.

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